

THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. E. J. Stucky, President
Customs Corporation
1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

DRAFT

Dear Mr. Stucky:

Since World War II, the United States has enjoyed a clear cut advantage in technological achievements. During the last several years this advantage has steadily eroded due primarily to the fact that the Soviet Union and other hostile and aggressive Eastern Bloc countries have illegally procured America's advanced technological secrets. Although some of these secrets are obtained through espionage, a large percentage are simply purchased from legitimate American businesses and then illegally shipped to the Eastern Bloc. These unfriendly nations are particularly interested in those items which have a military application. The net effect of this illegal activity is to save billions of dollars for use in Eastern Bloc defense budgets.

President Reagan is firmly committed to restoring our country's technological and military strength. Consequently, in an effort to stem the flow of high technology goods to the Eastern Bloc, the United States Customs Service has established a special program entitled Operation EXODUS. Operation EXODUS utilizes teams of highly trained special agents placed in major ports around the country to monitor the flow of exports, and to ensure that shipments of high technology are not smuggled out of this country. This program is in no way intended to discriminate against legitimate commerce, nor does it impose any new reporting requirements on American businessmen. It merely enforces the already existing laws prohibiting the illegal shipment of high technology goods to hostile nations.

Yet this effort can only succeed if government and industry work together. On behalf of the President, I am calling on you to cooperate with Operation EXODUS, and to support our efforts to prevent the loss of critical technology to hostile nations. I ask you and the employees of your company to be extra vigilant. If you become aware of the circumstances which you believe may lead to the unlawful exportation of critical technology, or would like additional information, please contact the nearest office of the U.S. Customs Service, or call the 24-hour EXODUS telephone number (202-566-9464) in Washington.

Again, on behalf of the President, thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William von Raab".

William von Raab
Commissioner of Customs

REPLY TO: COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20229